

Description

[Rear Sling Fitting for a Rifle]

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of sling carriers for weapons and more particularly relates to a rear sling fitting for a long gun, such as a rifle, whereby a user may use different sling types with the same weapon without changing the fitting.

[0002] Slings are a common accessory used with rifles and other long guns, as well as other types of weapons. However, in all cases, a sling must either attach to an existing part of the weapon or the weapon must be adapted to accommodate the sling. Many devices, fittings and systems have been developed in order to attach slings to weapons. For example, U. S. Pat. No. 6,325,258 to Verdugo, et al. (2002); U.S. Pat. No. 6,260,748 to Lindsey (2001); U.S. Pat. No. 5,971,239 to Marable (1998); U.S. Pat No. 5,848,491 to Biemont (1998); U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,654 to Bell (1997); U.S. Pat. No. 5,3305,540 to Blenk (1994); U.S. Pat. No. 5,075,996 to Llames (1991); U.S. Pat. No. 5,074,069 to

Shire (1991); U.S. Pat. No. 4,713,905 to Dupuy (1987); U.S. Pat No. 4,505,012 to Johnson (1985) and U.S. Pat. No. 149,141 to Metcalfe (1874) are all examples of the prior art.

[0003] Currently, there are two popular types of slings, each with a distinct means of attachment. The first is a point sling, where the sling interfaces with the weapon with a pin, hook, clip, or other similar device at a provided, or added, point hole. The second sling is threaded through a slot, likewise provided or added to the weapon. None of the prior art sling attachment means disclose a means for adapting a weapon to receive both types of these of slings simultaneously. The present invention is a sling fitting that is easily installed on a rifle and provides attachment means for both sling types.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0004] In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of sling fittings, this invention provides an improved sling fitting. As such, the present invention's general purpose is to provide a new and improved sling fitting that will allow for easy installation and for the attachment of either of the two popular sling types on the market today.

[0005] To provide these advantages over the prior art, the fitting is essentially a fitting body with appropriately placed holes for mounting the fitting on the weapon and also for mounting the sling on the fitting. Care is to be made in the positioning of the holes, and likewise the overall shape of the fitting so as to avoid interference with the operation of the weapon. More complex embodiments include a projection and a recess for further interface with the weapon's receiver and stock, so as to prevent rotation of the fitting. Embodiments are also made for adjustable and fixed length stocks.

[0006] The more important features of the invention have thus been outlined in order that the more detailed description that follows may be better understood and in order that the present contribution to the art may better be appreciated. Additional features of the invention will be described hereinafter and will form the subject matter of the claims that follow.

[0007] Many objects of this invention will appear from the following description and appended claims, reference being made to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the several views.

[0008] Before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0009] As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0010] Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention, detailing the front of the invention.

[0011] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the invention, detailing the back of the invention.

[0012] Figure 3 is a front plan view of the invention.

[0013] Figure 4 is a front plan view of the invention in an embodiment used with fixed length stocks.

[0014] Figure 5 is an exploded view of a rifle stock, in partial section, detailing installation of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] With reference now to the drawings, the preferred embodiment of the rear sling fitting is now described. Specifically referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the fitting 10 is a planar body with precisely positioned and sized apertures 12, 14, 16 for interfacing with a weapon's buffer tube or equivalent, and with either a threaded sling or a point sling. Main aperture 12 is sized to allow the fitting to be slid over the buffer tube of a weapon, between the stock and receiver, as shown in FIG. 5. Beneath aperture 12 is fitting body 13. Fitting body 13 is shaped so as to silhouette the rifle's receiver and stock. Extending from fitting body 13 is projection 18, which is designed to interface with the receiver 50, shown in FIG. 5. Slot apertures 14 are positioned on the edge of fitting body 13, with sufficient placement to avoid blockage by either receiver 50 or stock 52. Point sling apertures 16 are positioned on the outer

edge of slot apertures 14. Placement of point sling apertures should be above the lower edge of fitting body 13, thereby above the lower edge of the stock 52 so as to provide clearance for a user's thumb when the user is operating the weapon. Likewise, they should be positioned low enough so as to not interfere with the user when cocking the weapon. Ideally, the proper position allows the center of the point sling aperture 16 to form a right triangle with the center of the main aperture 12 and the center of projection 18, with the center of the projection 18 being the location the right angle. Being so positioned, the point sling apertures 16 can remain above the lower edge of the stock 52. Positioning the point sling aperture lower than the lower edge of the stock 52 can block the user's thumb during actuation of the weapon's selector switch and can further interfere with handling the weapon.

[0016] With the preferred embodiment, recess 19, shown in FIG. 2, is positioned on the reverse of the sling fitting 10, opposite the projection 18. Though unnecessary for operation of the invention, the depression provides further interface between the fitting 10 and the stock 52. The fitting is also adaptable for the differences between current fixed stock and current adjustable stocks. Figure 3 depicts

the sling fitting configured for an adjustable stock. Nub 11 projects into the aperture 12 along a radius drawn from the center of the projection 18 and the center of the main aperture 12. Nub 11 further interfaces with a groove located on the underside of a buffer tube for an adjustable stock, thereby increasing registration with the stock and buffer tube. Such grooves tend to be absent from buffer tubes for fixed length stocks, therefore the nub 11 is absent in the embodiment for fixed stocks depicted in FIG. 4.

[0017] Assembly of the weapon with the present invention is depicted in FIG. 5. Rifle receiver 50 has a rear surface 51 with a depression 58. Beyond depression 58 is a bore for supporting spring 57 and pin 56. Spring 57 normally biases pin 56 against stock 59 thereby also biasing stock 59 rearward. Extending rearward of receiver 50 is buffer tube 52, with a bore 53 at its terminal end. Upper butt plate screw 61 attaches butt plate 60 to stock 59 and further stock 59 and spacer 55 to bore 53, with stock 59 having an otherwise sliding engagement over buffer tube 52. Lower butt plate screw 62 merely attaches butt plate 60 to stock 59.

[0018] The addition of fitting 10 displaces stock 59 towards the

rear, relative the buffer tube, in a manner that must be accommodated. To do so, additional spacer 54 and a longer upper butt plate screw 61 are provided, as original upper butt screw will undoubtedly not reach bore 53. As can be seen, projection 18 interfaces with pin 56 and spring 57 assembly and depression 19 interfaces with stock 59 as a surrogate for depression 58.

[0019] Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, numerous modifications and variations can be made and still the result will come within the scope of the invention. No limitation with respect to the specific embodiments disclosed herein is intended or should be inferred.